

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-02 SY-05 CCO-00 /035 W

----- 041189

O R 311143Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 345

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP OTRA NO

SUBJ: VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY TO NORWAY

REF: STATE 207585

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

1. PARA 2, IN VIEW FACT ARRIVAL IS LATE SUNDAY EVENING AND AT RAIL STATION RATHER THAN AIRPORT, WE EXPECT NO ARRIVAL STATEMENT. PRESS WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF ARRIVAL TIME.
2. PARA 3. SEPT 8 COUNTRY TEAM MEETING WILL NOW TAKE PLACE AT BREAKFAST BEGINNING 0800 AT RESIDENCE.
3. PARA 4. WE WILL TRY TO GET TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF AMERICAN BUSINESS-ASSOCIATED REPRESENTATIVES FOR BREAKFAST ON SEPTEMBER 9 AT 0800. AT RESIDENCE.
4. PARA 5. FROM EMBASSY VIEWPOINT, INTERVIEW WITH NORWAY'S SINGLE TV NETWORK IS BEST WAY TO MAKE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE AWARE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT AND OF U.S. INTEREST IN NORWAY WHICH IT IMPLIES. WITHOUT SHORT INTERVIEW, TV REPORTING OF VISIT LIKELY TO BE ONLY MINIMAL. INTERVIEW'S PRINCIPAL IMPACT WILL BE PRESENCE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY IN NORWAY AS MUCH AS SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE SAYS. ACCORDINGLY, INTERVIEW WILL BE SHORT--NO MORE THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIVE MINUTES--AND WILL BE IN Q AND A FORMAT WITH QUESTIONS

SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL TO GIVE DEPUTY SECRETARY WIDE LATITUDE IN ANSWERING. (FYI--NORWEGIAN PRESS AND TV KNOWN FOR BEING EXTREMELY COURTEOUS TO PROMINENT VISITORS, SO MUCH SO THAT WE HAVE HAD PROBLEMS IN PAST GETTING THEM TO PROBE SUFFICIENTLY TO ADEQUATELY BRING OUT U.S. VIEWS.) QUESTIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD HAVE FEW MINUTES PRIOR TO FILMING TO TALK WITH TV INTERVIEWER, WHO IS ACTING FOREIGN EDITOR UNTIL JANUARY, WHEN HE BECOMES NORWEGIAN TV AND RADIO CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK. INTERVIEW FILM WOULD BE USED ON PRIME TIME EVENING NEWS AND WOULD BE SHOWN WITH SUBTITLES IN NORWEGIAN.

5. PARA 5 (CONT.). INTERVIEW WITH AFTENPOSTEN WAS REQUESTED BY ONE OF PAPER'S OWNERS, EINAR NAGELL-ERICHSEN, WHO IS LONG-TIME FRIEND OF DEPUTY SECRETARY. AFTENPOSTEN IS NORWAY'S LARGEST, MOST RESPECTED, AND MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY. AS SUCH, EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS INTERVIEW OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TO CONVEY U.S. VIEWS ON CURRENT ISSUES TO LARGE AUDIENCE, INCLUDING ALL OPINION LEADERS IN COUNTRY. THOUGH THIS INTERVIEW WILL BE FAR MORE SUBSTANTIVE THAN TV SESSION, WE CAN GUARANTEE THAT INTERVIEWER WILL NOT BE AGGRESSIVE.

6. PARA 5 (CONT.). EMBASSY WELCOMES DEPUTY SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN BACKGROUND DISCUSSION WITH KEY LEADERS OF NORWEGIAN MEDIA. WE ARE PLANNING SESSION IN RELAXED, INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE OF EMBASSY LOUNGE AREA WHICH WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO IN-DEPTH EXCHANGES ON ISSUES OF INTEREST. FROM SOUNDINGS SO FAR, WE EXPECT GROUP OF 12-15, INCLUDING CHIEF EDITOR OF AFTENPOSTEN; SOVIET AFFAIRS EXPERT OF AFTENPOSTEN (WHO IS KREMLINOLOGIST IN HIS OWN RIGHT AND HAS ATTENDED SPECIAL CONFERENCES AS GUEST OF STATE/INR); EDITOR AND LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FROM ARBEIDERBLADET, FLAGSHIP OF NORWAY'S LABOR PARTY PRESS; EDITOR AND FOREIGN EDITOR OF MORGENBLADET, REPRESENTING CONSERVATIVE OPINION; LEADING RADIO AND TV EDITORS AND COMMENTATORS; AND A FEW OUTSTANDING EDITORS FROM NORWAY'S PROVINCIAL PRESS. WE EXPECT SESSION TO LAST ABOUT AN HOUR, AND HAVE EMPHASIZED TO THOSE CONTACTED SO FAR THAT IT WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY CONSIDERABLE GIVE-AND-TAKE, WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY ASKING AS WELL AS RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS.

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7. PARA 5 (CONT.). AFTER WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TV INTERVIEW AND BACKGROUNDER IN GREATER DETAIL WITH PARTICIPANTS NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. PRESS WILL DOUBTLESS RAISE MANY OF SAME MANY OF SAME QUESTIONS THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY HAS BEEN ASKED TO DISCUSS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE PRICIPAL THEMES WHICH WE BELIEVE WARRANT STRESS FOR NORWEGIAN AUDIENCE ARE (A) THE CONSISTENCY AND STRENGTH OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND THROUGH NATO TO THE

NORTHERN FLANK; (B) OUR CONTINUING CONCERN TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF DETENTE POLICY, MARKED BY CSCE, MBFR AND SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND OUR CONVICTION THAT THE PRINCIPLE INCENTIVE FOR THE USSR TO RESPECT THE GROUND RULES OF DETENTE LIES IN THE VISIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE WESTERN ALLIANCE REMAINS STRONG MILITARILY, ECONOMICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY; AND (C) FACT WE ARE PROFOUNDLY DEDICATED, LIKE NORWAY, TO PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC, HUMANE SOCIETY BENEFITTING ALL THE PEOPLE, EVEN IF OUR TRADITIONS AND THE SIZE AND DIVERSITY OF OUR COUNTRY LEAD US TO SEEK SOLUTIONS SOMETIMES IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS THAN THOSE FOLLOWED IN SCANDINAVIA.

8. PARA 6. CONTROL OFFICER MANSFIELD WILL BE CARRYING WITH HIM ALL TICKETS FOR INGERSOLL PARTY, INCLUDING LOWENSTEIN, COVERING BERGEN-OSLO SHIP AND RAIL TRIP.

9. PARA 7. DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY WILL, OF COURSE, BE MET AND ASSISTED ON SEPT 5 IN MAKING CLOSE CONNECTION BY EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO WILL TAKE CHARGE OF ANY CLASSIFIED MATERIALS AND PERSONAL BAGGAGE WHICH PARTY MAY WISH TO LEAVE IN OSLO.
BYRNE

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